

Apodaca-Noah-20050301130002

To: Julie L. Sigall
Associate Register for Policy & International Affairs

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Comment:

I am a musician and produced a cover of a song for a CD a couple of years back. I was able to obtain licensing to sell my version of the song and everything worked easily. This year, I decided to put the CD online for digital distribution through the iTunes Music Store and other venues. When I tried to establish contact with the publisher for this song, I found that the information listed with ASCAP, BMI, EMI Blackwood and the Harry Fox Agency had all gone out-of-date --Mail sent to the physical address listed for the publisher gets returned, and the telephone number on file is disconnected. After working closely with agents from these companies, I have not been able to establish contact with this publisher, and no further help is available. I'm in a position now where my options are to put the song up on the iTunes Music Store and wait to be sued so I can find out who I should be paying the royalties to, or simply halt my plans for digital distribution. I'm choosing the former, but I would much rather have resolved this issue at the beginning through the proper channels - but the information I need just isn't out there!